

REMARKS

To further prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended herein Claims 50, 65, 68, and 70. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Amendments to Claims 50, 65, 68, and 70 do not add subject matter and have antecedent basis in the application specification. Amendments to Claim 50 are found at page 9, lines 5-7 and 21-23.

With regard to amendment of Claim 65, Applicants have rewritten Claim 65 in independent form to include all the claims of the rejected base Claim 50, as amended herein, and any intervening claims because the Examiner indicated in his Action of January 2, 2008 that Claim 65 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In addition, allowed Claim 70 has been amended to delete the term "latex" from the Claim in view of the Examiner's § 112 rejection of this term in Claim 50.

Further, Applicants have added herein new Claims 74-75 to the present application wherein Claims 74-75 are directed to further limiting "latex."

Claims 50, 52-58, 60-64, 66-69, and 74-75 are currently pending with Claim 50 in independent form.

Claims 65 and 70-73 have been allowed.

Allowance of Claims 65 and 70-73

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 65 and 70-73. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants amended Claim 65 to rewrite the claim in independent form including all the limitations of currently amended Claim 50, in accordance with the Examiner's indication that Claim 65 would be allowed if so amended. In addition, allowed Claim 70 has been amended to delete "latex" from the Claim.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 59 and 68 because of informalities. Applicants have herein cancelled Claim 59 and have amended Claim 68 to overcome such objections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claims 50 and 52-73 under § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the term “a substantially homogeneous” as recited in independent Claim 50 did not have support in the application specification. Without conceding to the correctness of the Examiner’s conclusion, Applicants have amended herein Claim 50 to delete “a substantially homogeneous.” Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 50 and 52-73 on this basis.

In addition, the Examiner rejected Claims 50 and 68 under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have herein amended Claims 50 to delete “latex” from the claim. In addition, Applicants have herein amended Claim 68 to correct the recitation to “anionic salt forms of the polymer precursor.” Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 50 and 68 under.” Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 50 and 68 under § 112.

Rejection of Claims 50, 52-64 and 67-69 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 50, 52-64, and 67-69 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cossement. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 50 has been amended and is directed to an article at least partially coated with a superabsorbent water-resistant polyacrylate polymer coating comprising:

at least one non-toxic, water-soluble superabsorbent anionic polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution, which cures, when the coating is applied to said at least one surface.

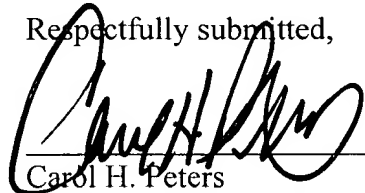
Applicants respectfully submit that Cossement does not disclose, teach, or suggest the non-toxic, water-soluble superabsorbent anionic polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution as specified in Claim 50. Applicants therefore submit that Claim 50 is not anticipated by Cossement. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Cossement does not provide a disclosure, teaching, or suggestion that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to formulate the glass fiber sizing composition of Cossement to include such precursor.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 50 is patentable over Cossement and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under § 102(b).

Claims 52-64 and 67-69 depend from Claim 50 and are patentable for at least the reasons given above.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and discussion, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 50, 52-58, 60-69, and 74-75 are in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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